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#### GEOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL OR BLOC POWER

The following geographic elements are considered to be basic in the determination of the relative power position of a nation or bloc of nations. Modern technological developments affect the degree to which individual elements may be influential in determining power position, but they do not obliterate the fact that these elements are still basic. Furthermore, the degree to which individual elements are influential in any given comparison of relative power positions is dependent on the broad and/or specific courses of action being pursued by the competing nations or blocs of nations at the given time. Here again, however, these elements are still considered to be basic even though the relative influence of each may vary from situation to situation.

1. Location
2. Size, shape, and depth
3. Physical <sup>*characteristics of*</sup> areas
- <4. Character of land and sea boundaries
5. Climate
6. Basic natural resources *and development thereof.*
7. Size, density, composition, and distribution of population
8. Transportation and communications (internal and international connections)
9. Stage of cultural, technological, and economic development
10. National and bloc aspirations
11. Degree of knowledge of rival's strengths and vulnerabilities

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